

FIRE FOCUS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Issue #1 - 2005

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Greetings from Acting Governor Codey & Commissioner Levin

The fire service plays a critical role in ensuring the safety of all New Jersey residents. One of our highest priorities in Acting Governor Richard J. Codey's Administration is giving our firefighters the tools they need to be more effective and safe when in the line of duty. The Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Act does just that.

The Emergency Deployment Act was enacted to ensure the safety of New Jersey residents in the event of a major crisis comparable to the terrorist attacks of 9/11. During 9/11, many New Jersey municipal fire departments were dispatched to NYC to help in

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STATE OF
NEW JERSEY
Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

Richard J. Codey



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

Susan Bass Levin



WABC-TV's Operation 7 Save-A-Life Program Provides Free Smoke Detectors for NJ's Needy for 7th Consecutive Year *15,000 Detectors for 2005 Brings NJ's Grand Total to 100,000*

For the 7th consecutive year, WABC-TV's Operation 7 Save-A-Life Program, a lifesaving smoke detector distribution program, was launched at a press conference held at the Tavern on the Green restaurant in New York City's Central Park on January 26, 2005. This year, a total of 50,000 smoke detectors, donated at no charge by the Kidde Corporation, have been allocated for distribution to needy families in the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Since the program's inception, Kidde has donated a grand total of 300,000 smoke detectors to the Operation 7 Save-A-Life program.

WABC news anchorman Bill Ritter again hosted the event. Ritter thanked the 112 people in attendance for attending and reminded them that the press conference marks the 7th consecutive year of the program's operation, which first began in January of 1999. He described his ambivalence over feeling enthusiastic about another year of the program's effective

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State Fire Marshal Larry Petrillo expresses his thanks to WABC-TV, the Kidde Corporation and other program sponsors for their implementation of a program that has provided 15,000 smoke detectors each year over the past seven years for needy households in the northern New Jersey WABC viewing area.

The press conference to announce WABC's Operation 7 Save-A-Life Program for 2005 was held at the Tavern on the Green Restaurant in New York City's Central Park.

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UASI Firefighters Train on New Foam Firefighting Equipment
State Fire Marshal Delivers Report on State of the Division

Firefighters Train on Foam Firefighting Equipment at Naval Air Warfare Center

On February 15 & 16, 2005, the Office of Fire Department Preparedness of the Division of Fire Safety held a training session to introduce state-of-the-art flammable liquid firefighting foam cache equipment acquired by the Division through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program. This \$3.2 million project was approved by the DHS after an in-depth examination of hazards within the UASI region of Union, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic and Morris Counties and the capabilities of the local fire service to mitigate a large-scale flammable liquid event.

The day before training began at the Naval Air Warfare Center in Lakehurst, a "train-the-trainer" session was conducted by Kidde Corporation/National Foam's International Training Manager, Frank Bateman. Bateman instructed the group of trainers on how to familiarize firefighters with the foam firefighting equipment in the days to follow.

On each day of the training, firefighters from Union and Morris counties received detailed instructions on the use of the new foam firefighting equipment by visiting five separate stations that had been set up by the instructors. The first station introduced firefighters to the "Iron Man", a cannon-like piece of equipment capable of firing 5,000-8,000 gallons of finished foam per minute. Firefighters were taught how to stabilize the Iron Man unit; how to change its nozzle tips to regulate flow; how to hook up large diameter hose to the unit; and the strategies to consider when putting such a powerful device into operation.

Next, firefighters were introduced to the Quick Response Vehicle - a Ford F150 4x4 platform with dual 5-inch intake manifolds and two 1,000 gpm foam delivery monitors used for initial response to an emergency while larger equipment is being set up. Firefighters were taught how to put the vehicle's nozzles into action and deploy foam solution from them.

The third station showed firefighters how to "couple" 12-inch diameter hose (also known as flexible pipeline). This is accomplished through "Victaulic Coupling," which, although uncommon to the fire service, provides a multitude of connection configurations from pipe to pipe, pump to

pump, etc. The fourth station, which also pertained to hose line, was geared toward showing firefighters how to deploy and recover the almost two miles of flexible pipeline off the deployment truck via hydraulic hose reels.

The final station showed firefighters how to operate foam tenders. The 3,500 gallon capacity foam tenders are used to transfer foam to a foam station, feed quick attack vehicles, the Iron Man or any number of other foam firefighting devices.

The training sessions were successful in achieving their objective of familiarizing firefighters from UASI counties with their newest pieces of equipment so they can use them with maximum speed and efficiency in emergency situations.



The Lakehurst Naval Air Warfare Center's Hangar 6 served as training ground for UASI firefighters.



Firefighters receive instruction on Iron Man operation. The Iron Man is capable of pumping 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of foam solution per minute.



Firefighters watch as instructors demonstrate deployment of 12-inch hose from hydraulic reels.



Hands-on training provides firefighters with experience in deploying flexible pipeline.



Division of Fire Safety staffer Bruce Tynan (third from right) explains Victaulic Coupling configurations to UASI firefighters.



International Training Manager Frank Bateman (left) enlists assistance of Division of Fire Safety staffer Jack Kennedy during training exercises.



UASI firefighters learn piping and valve arrangements on a 3,500 gallon foam tender.



**Division
of
Fire Safety
Emergency
Hotline
Telephone
Number:**

1-877-NJFIRES

(Story on page 9)



Once upon a time in New Jersey...

The State legislature passed a law establishing an agency called the New Jersey Bureau of Fire Safety. Its charge: to ensure that "all areas of the State are protected by a uniform, minimum, fire safety code to protect the lives and property of the State's citizens." In time, that little bureau began to grow and became responsible for establishing Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification, compiling fire statistics and information relative to the State's fire experience and the development of public fire safety education programs. Eventually, that tiny little bureau became a Division, and after 20 years, the Division of Fire Safety has evolved into an entity with multiple missions.

Since 1984, the Division has shown its ability to identify needs, address problems and accomplish the almost impossible. Here are just some of its more noteworthy accomplishments:

New Jersey was the first state in the nation to adopt a statewide fire code. In fact, since the Uniform Fire Code has been in force, the State's fire fatality rate has dropped on average approximately 70%. With fire fatalities reduced, so are the number of fires, meaning that the hidden costs of fire - pain and suffering, medical care, loss of jobs, etc., have been greatly reduced.

DFS spearheaded the first and only Thermal Imaging Camera initiative. This project placed at least one TIC in virtually every fire department in the State. The Seton Hall Dormitory tragedy saw the Division taking on an

incredible challenge, the Dormitory Sprinkler Retrofit project. This initiative set its sites on retrofitting the State's dormitories with sprinklers within a three-year period. The project was completed months before its anticipated implementation deadline and once again, New Jersey became the first in the nation in dormitory safety.

Division-sponsored continuing education courses have educated and recertified thousands of fire inspectors, officials and instructors. Our fire training courses offered through Kean University continue to provide new, innovative and quality education to the State's fire service at no cost.

On September 11, 2001, the Division's role and mission changed drastically. Within the first hours of the attacks, Division members were staffing the State's Emergency Operations Center. Our personnel were on station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Three weeks later, they were the last to leave. Since 9/11, the Division has significantly expanded its Domestic Preparedness operations. Division staff sit at the State's Domestic Preparedness table as a member of the Domestic Security Task Force; we participate in Homeland Security meetings and training exercises; and the Division is the lead agency for many of the State's Emergency Operations Plan annexes. The Division has been instrumental in attaining homeland security grant monies that have outfitted firefighters with basic WMD personnel protective and monitoring equipment. Through the Division's Homeland Security Computer Disbursement program near real-time communications is possible between the

State and the fire service. With the support and leadership of Acting Governor Richard J. Codey and DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin, the Division has established the Office of Fire Department Preparedness. This unit has been working with the State's 21 Fire Coordinators to streamline and make seamless multi-county fire coordination. They provide guidance to New Jersey's over 721 fire departments on domestic preparedness issues and grant funding allocations, and will act as a liaison between the Division and other State Agencies. The unit is working with the federal government to become lead and coordinate National Incident Management System implementation.

The Division now recognized as the State Fire Marshal's Office has increased visibility and status not only in New Jersey, but throughout the rest of the country as well. The Division's abilities to respond to major fires and accurately identify the needs of New Jersey's Fire Service have been significantly increased by the establishment of the emergency response team. The team's goals are to render assistance to incident commanders and identify areas where the Division can help improve safety levels for firefighters through education and/or proposed changes to fire or building codes. Since March of 2003, the Division's 25 emergency responders have responded to hundreds of fires and emergencies around the State. Many of these experienced responders are current or former chiefs in their respective fire departments. Each responder is assigned a conspicuously marked State Fire Marshal/Division of Fire Safety vehicle, equipped with radio communications, personal protective clothing and other response equipment. Our SOG requires all responders to report to the incident commander and be available for his needs.

Due to the Fire Investigation Unit's increasing workload, the unit has grown from one investigator to eight: five human investigators and three arson K-9's. The K-9's are available to respond 24/7 to any location in the State. Our Fire Investigation Unit is now working jointly with the New Jersey State Police

Arson Unit. This agreement allows for a free flow of information between the fire service and law enforcement that enables our agencies to acquire a better handle on the State's arson problem.

Through the Division's Juvenile Firesetter initiative, we've established working relationships with law enforcement, education, social services, and health care professionals throughout the State. This past December, in conjunction with the National Association of State Fire Marshals, we hosted the 2nd Annual Juvenile Firesetter conference. By the conclusion of the conference, working partnerships between several disciplines and the fire service had been established to deal with this problem.

Since February of 2003, the Division's Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement's inspectors have conducted hundreds of spot checks of night clubs and restaurants. Many of these spot checks are conducted in the early hours of the morning, and frequently on weekends. Our inspector's exemplary efforts have resulted in safer establishments and a higher level of security for New Jersey's citizens.

The Division has entered into an agreement with Mercer County Communications to establish a 24/7 emergency call center. Through this partnership, MCC will provide round-the-clock emergency communication and dispatch services. We are pleased to announce our new number: 1-877-NJFIRES. Now, whenever emergency responders need to reach out to the Division to report an emergency or some other urgent matter, they have the means to do so.

This overview is just the tip of the Division accomplishments iceberg. Acting Governor Cody and Commissioner Levin's commitments to the fire service and the Division will result in even more initiatives, even more innovations, and a safer New Jersey. As the old saying goes, "The best is yet to come," so stay safe and **STAY TUNED!**

How Long Has It Been Since You Last Tested Your Smoke Detector?



According to a recent survey commissioned by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the majority of Americans feel safest from a fire in their own homes. The truth is, however, that homes account for about 80% of all fires and pose a much higher risk of death from fires than most other locations. An NFPA spokesperson said the survey shows that "...Americans have an unrealistic feeling of overconfidence in safety from fire."

If you really want your home to be safe from fire, you need to have at least one properly installed smoke detector on every level of your home. Fire safety experts tell us that smoke detectors cut the chances of dying in a fire nearly in half. But this is true only if the smoke detectors are in proper working order. Fortunately, keeping them in proper working order is simple. It means cleaning the detector's grill periodically with the brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner; changing the batteries as necessary (at least once a year); and testing your detectors at least once a month to make sure they are working properly.

Testing your detectors regularly is a must. It's the only way of being sure that your detectors are in fact working properly and providing you with the fire protection you need. So if you haven't done it during the past month, take a few minutes to do it now. Fire safety is not something you can afford to be overconfident about.

And while you're at it, isn't it about time you invested in a carbon monoxide (CO) detector? Although many cases of lives being saved because of CO detectors have already been documented in New Jersey, only 25% of all households have one of these lifesaving devices installed in their homes. Why not pick one up today? It's a small investment that will provide much more safety and peace of mind for your entire family.

This message brought to you by:



The Division of Fire Safety
NJ Department of Community Affairs
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For 7th Consecutive Year, WABC's Operation 7 Save-A-Life Program Provides Smoke Detectors for NJ's Needy **15,000 Detectors for 2005 Brings NJ's 7-Yr Total to over 100,000**

operation, but yet saddened by the recent deaths of three New York City firefighters – Curtis Meyran, John Bellew and Richard Sclafani - who lost their lives just a few days ago while responding to two separate apartment fires. Four other firefighters were also seriously injured in the incidents: Jeffery Cool, Eugene Stolarski and Brendan

specials, and free smoke detectors for the needy – would save lives during the forthcoming year.

Ritter then introduced his boss, Dave Davis, the President and General Manager of the flagship WABC-TV station in New York. Davis recalled his early involvement with TV station-supported fire safety programs at the

countless lives, said Davis.” The WABC President and GM gave special praise to the Kidde Corporation, which Davis credited for keeping the program alive with its generous smoke detector contributions after previous sponsors withdrew from the program; and thanked the company’s CEO Michael Harper and USA President Ed LeBlanc for their wonderful support. Harper flew in from Great Britain to attend the event. Davis also commended fire and burn prevention efforts of the other sponsors of the program – the Tri-State Association of Jeep Dealerships, The New York/Presbyterian Hospital Burn Center, and the New York Lottery.

New York City Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scopetta was next to speak, and announced the good news that recent data released indicated that fire deaths in the City had declined to the lowest levels ever since fire deaths first began to be recorded. Scopetta attributed this success in large measure to the increased emphasis on fire prevention over the past seven years. “Fire professionals know that the best way to fight a fire is to prevent it from happening in the first place, so by providing education and the means to detect fires, we are really saving lives in this great city,” he said. The Commissioner said that the enormous power of network broadcasting fire safety directly into homes is a major reason that the citizens of the Tri-State area are safer from fire than ever before.

Bill Ritter introduced State Fire Marshal Larry Petrillo as “New Jersey’s Top Dog of Firefighting.” Petrillo said that the past year has been a great one for the firefighters in New Jersey, and praised the State’s Fire Safety Commission for facilitating that success by endorsing resolutions to the New Jersey Legislature to require the installation of sprinkler systems in all new one and two-family homes and to impose flammability standards on



WABC-TV President and General Manager Dave Davis welcomes everyone to the 7th Annual Operation 7 Save A Life Kickoff Press Conference and voices his satisfaction at seeing the program grow from humble beginnings into the lifesaving program it is today.

Cawley, are in critical condition at the St. Barnabas Burn Center in Livingston, NJ. Cawley’s brother, also a New York City firefighter, died at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Joseph DiBernardo was also hospitalized with serious but not life-threatening injuries.

This tragedy, said Ritter, represented the deadliest day for New York City firefighters since the 2001 terror attacks. He then asked everyone to pause for a moment of silence to honor the brave fallen firefighters.

Ritter told the crowd that the WABC-TV Fire Prevention Special would be broadcast three days later – on January 29th, and hoped that the program’s broadcast, along with WABC’s fire safety public service announcements, their safety news

Philadelphia WABC affiliate back in 1991 when the smoke detector distribution program consisted of 500 donated smoke detectors on a card table at the back of a Philadelphia firehouse. “The program’s growth to its present point of distributing hundreds of thousands of smoke detectors to the needy is amazing, and that growth has been made possible by the trifecta of the Kidde Corporation, who donates the alarms; WABC, who produces and broadcasts fire prevention programming viewed by millions of households; and the corporate community, who provides the financial and support resources required to make the program possible. I know for sure that over the years, the program has been responsible for saving

mattresses to make them fire safe.

Fire Marshal Petrillo told the audience how Bill Lavin, President of the New Jersey FMBA, related to him experiences he, Lavin, had while attending an upstate-Connecticut summer camp for young children who had been burned severely. When Lavin first arrived, said Petrillo, he was apprehensive, but talking to the children for just a short time made him realize that they are *children* - with the same needs and desires as any other children, despite having suffered a tragic event that they will have to live with for the rest of their lives. Petrillo said he was confident that the opposition of those individuals who oppose stronger fire safety measures would diminish if they were to visit that camp to see firsthand the unnecessary tragedies that could have been prevented.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo thanked program sponsors for their support of fire safety, and the Kidde Corporation in particular, for making the program possible. Petrillo said the Division of Fire Safety recently entered into a \$3.2 million contract with Kidde through the Homeland Security Initiative to protect New Jersey's petrochemical infrastructure.

In closing, Petrillo said that because New Jersey experienced a significant increase in the number of residential house fires caused by portable heaters during the winter months for the past few years, he had Division staff produce a 30-second portable heater safety public service announcement (PSA) for broadcast television, which was then played for the audience. Bill Ritter called the PSA "very effective," thanked Petrillo for the presentation, and then gave the audience a sneak preview of a 30-minute WABC fire safety special scheduled for network broadcast three days later. The people in attendance responded to the professional-level video production with overwhelming enthusiasm.

Ritter then introduced Kidde President Ed LeBlanc, who pointed out the irony of manufacturing products that he hopes people will never have to use, but can be counted on to work reliably

when they are needed. LeBlanc suggested that if anyone in the room has ever wondered if what they're doing is really important, they ought to visit a burn center, because that experience will make them immediately realize the full importance of fire prevention and what a life-changing event that serious burns are. LeBlanc pointed out that although there have been some significant reductions in fire-related deaths and injuries in some cities, notably New York and Chicago, that the statistics still remain at what he considers to be epidemic levels, particularly among the elderly and very young children. LeBlanc pointed to new research that concludes that a significant number of the elderly and children will not be awakened by conventional smoke alarms, and his company has responded by developing new smoke alarms that will be available later this year that feature louder alarms and interconnectivity capabilities through frequency technology. The problems of inoperable smoke detectors in 40% of American homes, and the absence of carbon monoxide detectors in 75% of American homes are also being addressed, since the latest research indicates that people have an average of approximately 3 minutes to be able to escape in real fire situations. LeBlanc recognized Kidde CEO Michael Harper for being incredibly supportive of safety programs, and thanked everyone in attendance for their support.

The final person to speak was New Jersey FMBA President Bill Lavin, who exhorted everyone to not only remember fallen firefighters, but to give them the support they need while they're doing their jobs as well. Lavin said that every year his organization honors someone for making a special contribution to fire safety, and that this year, on April 16th, the person selected to be honored will be WABC-TV anchorman Bill Ritter. Ritter responded that he will accept the honor "gladly and proudly on behalf of WABC." Ritter thanked everyone for coming and for supporting a program that makes a real difference in terms of saving lives, and that he looked forward to seeing everyone next year.

FIRE FOCUS, the official newsletter of the Division of Fire Safety, is published quarterly by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and has a circulation of approximately 10,000. ***FIRE FOCUS*** invites submissions that would be of interest to the Fire Service Community and will make every effort to print any items so submitted. Because of space constraints, however, ***FIRE FOCUS*** cannot guarantee that all items submitted will be printed. News articles and information on upcoming events can be FAXed to the newsletter editor at (609) 633-6744, mailed directly to Fire Focus, Division of Fire Safety, P.O. Box 809, Trenton, NJ 08625-0809, or e-mailed to ***FIRE FOCUS*** at mmatcho@dca.state.nj.us.

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Address changes and subscription requests should be directed to Helen Kerr at the above-mentioned address. Other questions regarding ***FIRE FOCUS*** should be directed to the Editor at (609) 633-6107.



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DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
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Fire Safety Commission Meets on March 16th

Division of Fire Safety Reports on Recent Accomplishments

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission met on March 16th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, and one of the first orders of business was a report by State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo on Division activities that have taken place since the Commission last met in January. Petrillo's report covered the following items:

- * The Teterboro aircraft crash incident, to which Division emergency responders were deployed to assist relevant agencies staffing the scene;

- * The Division's acceptance of delivery of the \$3.2 million foam cache equipment purchase, which includes over a mile of 12-inch hose.

- * Proposed changes to Firefighter I Training Program appeared in the State Register on December 6th. Division staff is moving forward on the distribution of Training Packets, which are impressively boxed sets consisting of the Firefighter I manual, the study guide, the New Jersey Addendum - a 110-page document containing information specific to New Jersey and a very comprehensive section

on utility safety, and two DVDs on electrical and gas safety. Another amendment being proposed pertains to regulations pertaining to Firefighter Injury and Fatality Investigations and addresses the Division's lack of authority to prevent a building from being condemned or demolished before an investigation is completed.

- * The Division will sponsor its annual retreat for the Fire Service Women of New Jersey on April 16th in Burlington county.

- * The Fire In New Jersey NFIRS Report for 2001-2003 has been submitted for contract printing and should be published soon. The new report will be printed in color with graphs in a new, easier to read format, and will hopefully be available for review at the May meeting of the Fire Safety Commission. The Division is also working to encourage more fire departments to participate in the NFIRS reporting system.

- * A test of the Division's Homeland Security Mutual Aid

Emergency Response Plan is tentatively scheduled for May. The test will involve the simulated movement of fire department resources from Sussex and Middlesex counties to Cape May county.

- * The Division has obtained computers for every municipality with a fire department in the state that will enable them to receive alerts and bulletins.

- * A 30-second video public service announcement on portable heater safety produced by the Division was sent to all cable TV stations in the state for voluntary broadcast.

- * Entries to the statewide fire prevention poster contest are being selected for final judging. Contest preparations for the forthcoming year will begin at the conclusion of the current year's contest.

- * Lou Kilmer has been designated as Acting Chief of the Division's Bureau of Code Enforcement. Kilmer will fill the position being vacated by the retiring George Miller.



Fire Safety Commission Chairman Assemblyman John Wisniewski (seated, far right) conducts meeting of March 16th.

Greetings from Acting Governor Codey & Commissioner Levin

(Continued from front page)

the relief effort, but because these efforts were not coordinated, we were unaware of what fire resources were actually deployed. The events of 9/11 demonstrated the need to have greater cooperation and improved channels of communication between our fire departments.

Because of heightened concerns with blackouts that occurred last summer, the Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Regulations were specially adopted on October 20, 2003. In response to comments, concerns and meetings with legislators and local fire service personnel, we proposed amendments to the regulations on several issues: classification, clarification of large-scale emergencies and chain of command. The adoption notice, along with the

proposed amendments to the regulations, appeared in the May 3, 2004 New Jersey Register.

The proposed amended regulations create improved coordination among all of the state's emergency resources in the event of a large-scale disaster, which better ensures the safety of New Jersey residents. The regulations also encourage local and state fire officials to work together to improve emergency response preparedness. In the event of a large-scale disaster, it is important that all fire departments follow an approved authorization of deployment to ensure proper coverage for firefighter injuries or fatalities and to ensure the replacement of damaged equipment or apparatus.

Division Teams With MCCCC to Establish Emergency Call Center for Responders

On March 4, 2005, the Division of Fire Safety entered into an agreement with Mercer County Central Communications Center (MCCCC) to create an emergency call center for requesting Division support at emergency scenes. Under the new call system, emergency responders throughout the state can request the support of the Division of Fire Safety personnel at emergency scenes by dialing the new toll-free, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week emergency telephone number: **1-877-NJFIRES (1-877-653-4737)**. Relevant information on all emergency calls will be received and recorded by Mercer County dispatch personnel and relayed to Division of Fire Safety Duty Officers.

Examples of emergencies that would justify calling for Division emergency response are:

- * Major fires requiring extensive mutual aid;
- * High profile incidents, such as those involving terrorism/wmds;
- * Firefighter fatalities/serious injuries;

- * Civilian fatalities/serious injuries;
- * Fire cause investigations.

In the event of a major emergency, a Division Emergency Response Team member will staff the radio position at the MCCCC and provide additional field communications support. The MCCCC is housed within the Dempster Fire Training Academy on Lawrence Station Road in Lawrenceville.

Other items that should be noted are:

1. A publicity campaign will soon be implemented by the Division to make fire departments aware of the new emergency call system.
2. All non-emergency calls for Division assistance should be made to 609-633-6106 or 609-633-6070.
3. The emergency call center for Division assistance is for use by emergency responders only. It is not intended to be used by the public.



Egress Door Locks

by Steve Speicher

One of the most serious violations we find during inspections is a locked egress door. The Uniform Fire Code allows penalties that may be levied in the amount of up to \$5,000.00 per occurrence in a place of assembly or education, and, of course, a dedicated penalty that must match. Thus, a business owner of this type of use could face a \$10,000.00 penalty. The wrong type of locking device can increase the chances of a door being locked, and being unsuitable in an emergency. One of the most common excuses a business owner will say is that they need to keep their investments secure. I agree with them wholeheartedly, but in a safe approved way.

Too often a business owner will install a double cylinder dead bolt lock (key operable on both sides) on the egress door. They will say when they are open the door will not be locked, but at the end of the day they insert the key in either side and secure the door. How many times are all the customers out? More often how many times are all the employees out?

That is why neither the BOCA National Building Code nor the International Building Code permit these locks. Under the Means of Egress chapters they state: *All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.* There are some exceptions such as in I-3 and use groups B, F, M and S uses that have specific criteria that must be adhered to. They are: 1) Locking devices that are readily distinguishable as locked; 2) A sign in at least one inch letters stating that the door must remain unlocked when the building is occupied; 3) The door swings free when unlocked.

The only exception that is usually found is #3. I have rarely ever seen exception #2 and #1 that would require a mechanical sign that would change when the door is locked. This is clearly a violation of N.J.A.C.5:70-3.1 (a) F-608.1

The cheapest permitted solution is to install a single cylinder lock (key operated on the outside, thumb latch on the

inside). Business owners will say that once an intruder is in, all other thumb latches can be opened to allow ingress and egress. Most of us all have learned in Firefighter 1 how we can overcome a key lock to gain entry, but what if a firefighter enters the property, and has to exit from another location that has a key lock in an emergency? Often this cannot be done expeditiously. Again the single cylinder lock provides the egress to be made quickly and safely.

These same issues hold true for Assembly and Educational occupancies under 100 occupants. For occupant loads more than 100, panic hardware must be installed. This unfortunately is slightly different in the Uniform Fire Code Subchapter 4, which only requires assembly uses and not educational uses in older buildings. The panic bar, which must cover at least half the width of the door, must operate all locking devices. Therefore a stand-alone single cylinder deadbolt lock now becomes illegal. This should be cited under N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) F-608.5.

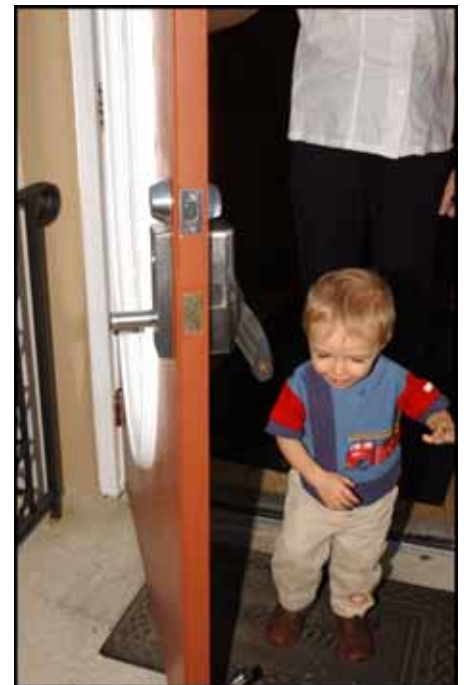
Other locks that are prohibited on egress doors are hasps, padlocks and slide bolts. Often these are used separately or in conjunction with one another. If found they should be cited under N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a)F-608.3.

There are other locks that are permitted, but they must be compliant to the building code at time of installation, which require them to get a permit from the Building Dept. If in doubt refer to the building code, and question the Construction Official. Once they give a Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Approval

that is the last time they inspect that building. It is up to the Fire Official/ Inspector to assure that an owner has not deviated from what has been approved, that it is in proper working order and if the building was built prior to the Uniform Construction Code, that Subchapter 4 requirements are addressed.



Approved panic hardware with a single cylinder dead bolt just above. This is not a violation if the lock mechanism has been disabled.



Egress door with locking/latching device. This panic hardware has single cylinder dead bolt that will not release when the panic hardware is used.

Contractor Certification Unit Hitting Stride by Charles Lavin

On July 1, 2003, the Division of Fire Safety started up a Unit, and it has been hard at work ever since. The *Contractor Certification and Emblems Unit* is geared toward insuring that any contractor of fire protection equipment doing business in the state of New Jersey is properly registered with the Division to ensure that their customers will be well-protected by properly installed and properly functioning fire protection equipment. The types of fire protection contractors monitored by this unit through certifications include those specializing in sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, special hazards, kitchen suppression systems and portable fire extinguishers.

State Fire Marshal Larry Petrillo chose the individuals to staff the new unit based on their experience in the field of fire protection, and the team has not let him down. Prior to joining the Division, Supervisor Jack Kennedy operated his own fire protection company for over forty years, while Chris Michallis' work experience includes several years of employment with a private fire protection contractor. Gary Licknack has worked a total of 26 years in fire protection/prevention, is former Chief of the Dover Township Pleasant Plains Fire Department Volunteer Fire Company, a licensed Fire/Building Subcode and Fire Official since the inception of the regulations, and was elected Fire Commissioner of Dover Fire District #2 in 1985. Staffers Beverly Verde and Kim Lake are noted in the Division for their good judgment, tenacity and attention to detail. The combined talents of this team of all-stars enables the process of certifying the state's fire protection contractors to be handled as thoroughly and swiftly as could be imagined.

From June 30, 2003 until December 31, 2003, this unit's main objective was to "grandfather" into certification all the contractors that had been operating within the state. If a fire protection contractor made it known during those first six months of operation that they have been a legitimate business for a

number of years, they would be "grandfathered" and given extra time to complete the certification process.

The process by which a fire protection contractor can become certified is a relatively simple, two-part process. In order to operate lawfully in New Jersey, a contractor must meet all necessary requirements and obtain two permits from the Division of Fire Safety. The first is its business permit, which costs \$250.00. The second is a personal certification for at least one company employee, which costs \$75.00.

To attain certification with the Division of Fire Safety, individuals must complete and pass a nationwide certification test administered by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (or NICET). This test, which normally takes 3 or 4 days to complete, is mandatory for obtaining the Level II certification necessary to legally install sprinkler systems, special hazard fire suppression systems, and fire alarm systems.

The new requirements for fire protection certification have been greeted with mixed reactions from the state's fire protection

contractors. In general, most businesses have had no problems complying with the new certification process, but businesses employing staff with more marginal training have sometimes tended to be more critical of the more stringent requirements. At this point in time, about 600 business permits and 1,000 individual certifications have been issued throughout the state.

A large part of the battle with getting all of New Jersey's fire protection contractors certified is getting the word out about the new requirements. Staffers have traveled widely to inform people in this industry about the new necessity for certification and reached out at various trade conventions to those who need to be certified. And to make life a bit easier for contractors, all necessary information and applications, along with a complete list of certified contractors, are accessible through the Division's website at www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs.



Contractor Certification and Emblems Unit staff meet to review the latest round of contractor applications. From left to right are Unit Supervisor Jack Kennedy, Beverly Verde, Kim Lake, Chris Michallis and Gary Licknack. Kennedy also served in the military as a member of the U.S. Special Forces and was a finalist in the Olympic wrestling trials in 1964.

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